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Cotton: Its Uses, Varieties, Fibre Structure, Cultivation, and Preparation for the Market and as an Article of Commerce; also the Manufacture of Cotton-Seed Oil, Cotton-Seed Meal and Fertilizers; with Especial Reference to Cotton Growing, Ginning and Oil Pressing in the United States. C. P. BROOKS. New York, Spon & Chamberlain, 1898.—362 pp.

This is a book which is likely to appeal more strongly to the man who views the subject from a technical standpoint than to him who is interested only in the economic features of the cotton industry. Its author is the director of the American Correspondence School of Textiles at Lowell and is the writer of several books dealing with various phases of the cotton manufacture. The primary purpose of the present volume is to furnish manufacturers with such information concerning the growth, cultivation and marketing of cotton and its by-products as will be of practical assistance to them in selecting cotton for manufacture. Incidentally, the author hopes that the work will be of value to planters and men engaged in the cotton trade, and that the treatment of the subject is such as will interest the general reader.

Passing over the first chapter, which treats of the botany of the cotton plant and describes the different varieties of cotton, both foreign and domestic, we come to the history of cotton cultivation. This is brief and unsatisfactory, consisting, in the main, of the scattered references to the cotton plant in the writings of the Greek historians and mention of its cultivation in this country by colonial writers—statements which have been repeated by every writer on the subject for the last one hundred years. The description of the cotton belt and the account of the economic and social conditions prevailing there are interesting but not very full, and are the result of casual observation rather than of systematic study. The author, however, has little that is good to say of the negro laborer, and he considers the great increase of manufactures in the South to be due mainly to the cheap labor of the Georgia “cracker.” He condemns the share system, although he admits that it was a “necessary evil” in the past; and he rightly attributes to the credit system the high rents and low-selling value of the land, the lack of intensive cultivation, the want of improvements and the unnecessarily high cost of cotton raising. His description of the modes of cultivation, and of the differences between the improved methods employed by the enterprising and intelligent planters and the old-fashioned methods still in vogue among the negroes and thriftless whites, is the best

and most complete that the reviewer remembers to have seen. But it is somewhat of a surprise to find that, while the author approves rotation of crops as a principle and commends it as a practice which would be "beneficial to land used for cotton growing," he nevertheless deems it impracticable in the cotton belt; for, he says, "if the rotation of crops provided for cotton to be planted two years out of four, there would be far too much wheat, corn and other cereals grown for the requirements of the inhabitants, and in grain growing for the market the South cannot compete with the Northwest." But, if Southern agricultural papers are to be trusted, there is no better land for corn than is to be found in the cotton belt; and it is the present dependence of the farmers of this section on purchased supplies of corn and its chief product, bacon, that keeps prosperity away from their doors.

In the history of cotton ginning the author repeats the old Southern legends, according to which Watkins and Holmes invented gins prior to that invented by Eli Whitney, or introduced improvements which made the saw gin practicable. Yet there is no ground whatever for such statements. Watkins, in all probability, never invented a gin; and Holmes's patent, fraudulently obtained, was soon set aside by the courts. The poor ginning of the present, as compared with that done before the war, the author attributes to the expensive machinery now in use, which compels the ginner to rush cotton through the gins as fast as possible. In this way two gins are made to do what should be done by three. The increase in the number of small farms is also in part responsible, as the toll gin of the country merchant has supplanted the old plantation gins. This has likewise caused a greater mixture of cotton of different qualities. The author expects the roller gin to displace the saw gin altogether.

The present method of compressing cotton is condemned and some sensible suggestions for improvement are made. A qualified approval is given to the round bale system, but it is the writer's belief that further improvements will have to be made before this method will meet with the unqualified endorsement of manufacturers.

One of the valuable features of the book, and one that is new to treatises on cotton, is the chapter on cotton seed and its products. It is scarcely too much to say that the cotton-seed industry is causing something like an agricultural revolution in the South, through the opportunity which it affords the farmers of securing cheap and excellent feed for cattle, besides adding to the selling value of their cotton crops. Yet, as the author points out, the industry has not been

an unmixed blessing. The negro farmer cannot withstand the temptation to sell outright for cash the entire crop of cotton seed, instead of bargaining for a return of the meal and hulls, although later he will buy, on credit, fertilizers which are worth no more but which cost far more than the price obtained for the cotton seed.

The book is well supplied with illustrations, and these often convey as much information to the Northern reader who is unfamiliar with the South as does the text itself.

M. B. HAMMOND.

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La Participation aux bénéfices. Par ÉMILE WAXWEILER.

Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1898.—320 pp.

L'Association de l'ouvrier aux profits du patron et la participation aux bénéfices. Par PAUL BUREAU. Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1898.—xix, 322 pp.

La Participation aux bénéfices. Étude théorique et pratique.

Par MAURICE VANLAER. Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1898.—viii, 310 pp.

Le Métayage et la participation aux bénéfices. Par ROGER MERLIN. Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1898.—xvi, 578 pp.

Labor Copartnership. By HENRY DEMAREST LLOYD. New York, Harper & Bros.—351 pp.

The four volumes in French above named are a part of the results of the competition for the prize offered by M. le Comte de Chambrun, the distinguished philanthropist, in 1896. The prize was divided in unequal shares among three writers, of whom M. Waxweiler, a *chef de bureau* in the Labor Office in Belgium, carried off the first prize, and M. Bureau, an adjunct professor of the *Faculté Libre de Droit* at Paris, took the third. The essay which won the second prize has not yet reached me. The Comte de Chambrun's liberality extended to the free publication of the prize compositions and of several others which received honorable mention, including the volume by M. Vanlaer, an *avocat* of Lille and a lecturer at the *Faculté Libre*, and that by M. Merlin, also an *avocat* and a nephew of M. Jules Siegfried, the minister of commerce.

These four volumes would make a contribution of much value to the literature of profit-sharing, could they be reduced to one book of (say) some three hundred pages, which should contain all the information not already in print and lately accessible, together with the